

DNRC has designed this application so that applicants can fill it out without assistance in a minimal amount of time. The application itself should take you no longer than an hour to fill out. Please call DNRC if you have any questions or problems. Thank you

DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL)

Project Planning Grant Application Guidance

Contact Information:

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RRGL Planning Grant Purpose:

The purpose of RRGL project planning grants is to fund planning efforts, for public entities, for projects that conserve, manage, develop, or preserve renewable resources in Montana.

This grant can only be used to pay for DNRC-approved contracted services necessary to plan a renewable resource project. The grant cannot be used to pay for in-kind services or administration.

Applications will be evaluated by:

- A clear description of the problem to be solved.
- Measurable benefits of the project to renewable resources and the public.
- Immediacy and magnitude of the project

First Cycle

1. Start accepting Applications May 15, 2013
2. Application Deadline July 1, 2013
3. Grant Awards July 30, 2013

Second Cycle

1. Start accepting Applications August 13, 2013

2. Application Deadline September 2, 2013
3. Grant Awards October 1, 2013

At the end of the second cycle, if there is any remaining money, it will be used at the program's discretion for planning grants until it is gone.

Note: Applicants applying for public facility project planning grants must first contact the Montana Department of Commerce, Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) for funding availability before applying to RRGL. If available, TSEP funding must be included in the budget for the Study.

Grant Award:

Upon award of a planning grant, the applicant must enter into a grant agreement with the DNRC. The agreement will not be effective until signed and dated by representatives of DNRC and the applicant. **Expenses incurred before the grant agreement becomes effective cannot be reimbursed.**

Planning Grants must be completed within one year of the executed contract.

Application Types

Preliminary Engineering/Technical Investigation and Feasibility Study Grants

Limit: \$15,000 and availability of funding

Purpose: These grants must be used to pay for contracted engineering or technical consultant services that result in a PER meeting the requirements of the Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects or a Technical Narrative meeting the requirements of Steps 4 and 6 of the RRGL Application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind services or administrative costs.

OR

Purpose: These grants must be used to pay for contracted engineering or technical consultant services that may be necessary to the preparation of a PER or a Technical Narrative or may stand alone. The study must lead to the development of a stronger renewable resource project or a stronger funding application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind services or administrative costs. Examples of potential activities include:

- Drinking water or wastewater treatment pilot testing;
- Groundwater investigations including test well drilling;
- Soils investigations to determine suitability for the siting of a wastewater lagoon or the land; application of treated wastewater effluent;

- Source water protection plans and upgrades;
- Watershed surveys;
- Other contracted activities or feasibility studies to be reviewed and approved by RRGL staff at the time of application.

Administrative Grants

Limit: \$5,000 and availability of funding

Purpose: These grants must be used to pay for contracted administrative costs associated with the development of a renewable resource project or funding application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind administrative costs. Examples of potential activities include:

- Capital Improvements Plans
- Growth Planning and Growth Policy Development

Watershed Grants

Limit: Grants will be available up to a maximum of \$75,000, this may change based on the immediate need and magnitude of the project depending on the availability of funds

Purpose: These grants must be used to pay for contracted engineering/hydrologist costs associated with the development of a watershed assessment.

1. The proposed assessment will require a prioritization of the watershed's projects based on the re-establishment of structure and function to a watershed;
2. The proposed assessment must address the magnitude and immediate need in the targeted watershed; (TMDLs; weeds; fire prevention or rehab; flood mitigation; Drinking or Wastewater systems being threatened)
3. The proposed assessment must demonstrate involvement from the conservation district, stakeholders, and landowners
4. The proposed assessment must identify and prioritize projects based on the re-establishment of structure and function to a watershed and a cost estimate for each project involved must be provided.
5. The proposed assessment must be completed by a qualified consultant.